

**Sunday, December 24, 2017
Vigil of Christmas**



Sun. 24 Dec. Vigil of Christmas, I Class
8:00 am †Christopherson Cortes
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:30 pm †Paulette Brady

Mon 25 Dec. The Nativity of Our Lord, I Class
12:00 am †Christopherson Cortes
8:00 am †William J. Foy
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:30 pm †Joseph Schuchmann
6:00 pm Suffering Souls in Purgatory

Tues. 26 Dec. St. Stephen, Deacon & Protomartyr, II Class
7:00 am Angela Cervetti
6:30 pm †Joseph Schuchmann

Wed. 27 Dec. St. John the Evangelist, Apostle, II Class
7:00 am †Christopherson Cortes
12:15 pm Rose Wedinsky

Thurs. 28 Dec. Holy Innocents, Martyrs, II Class
7:00 am †Maria Delinger
6:30 pm Jacob & Benjamin Kasak

Fri. 29 Dec. 5th Day in the Octave of Christmas, II Class
7:00 am †Maria Delinger
12:15 pm Mark Harvey
6:30 pm †Harry & †Verna Anderson

Sat. 30 Dec. 6th Day in the Octave of Christmas, II Class
7:00 am Suffering Souls in Purgatory
9:00 am Kayla Court

Sun. 31 Dec. Sunday in the Octave of Christmas, II Class
8:00 am †Christopherson Cortes
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:30 pm FSSP
6:00 pm FSSP

...In Memoriam

†Maria Lopresti, †George Klopff, †Nell Keim, †John Reyes,
†Margaret Melusky, †Robert O’Kane, †Savino Salierno,
†Beverly Longtin, †Donald Strahota, †Ursula Uclaray,
†Marina Servande, †Rizal Robancho, †Mike McGrath,
†Sarah Vierra, †Mary Daley, †James Greenwell,
†Josef Schuchmann, †Paulette Brady, †Felipa Lopez,
†Jorge Munoz, †William J. Foy, †Patricia Becker,
†David Munoz Ortiz, †Paige Langdon, †Francis Hadano,
†Fatima Moitoso, †George Lane

Important Upcoming Dates

Dec. 26—St. Stephen’s Day—Altar Guild Ceremony
Dec. 27—Feast of St. John—blessing of wine
Dec. 31—No 6:00 pm Mass
Jan. 1—Octave of the Nativity
Jan. 5—Blessing of Epiphany water
Jan. 6—Annual Christmas Party
Jan. 13—Girls groups meet
Jan. 14—1st Communion classes begin
Feb. 2—Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin
Feb. 14—Ash Wednesday
Feb. 22—Chair of St. Peter
March 20—Confirmation 6:00 pm
May 5—First Holy Communion

The Nativity of Our Lord

CHRISTMAS DAY – THE SAVIOR HAS APPEARED

God is charity: He has loved us with an everlasting love! “I think God must have said to Himself: Man does not love Me because he does not see Me; I will show Myself to him and thus make him love Me. God’s love for man was very great, and had been great *from all eternity*, but this love had not yet become visible. . . . Then, it really appeared; the Son of God let Himself be seen as a tiny Babe in a stable, lying on a little straw” (St. Alphonsus). This is the mystery of the Nativity; this is St. Paul’s exultant cry: “The grace of God our Savior hath appeared to all men. . . . The goodness and kindness of God our Savior appeared” (*Ep* 1st and 2nd Masses: *Ti* 2, 11—15 — 3, 4—7). These are the blessed tidings “of great joy” brought by the Angel to the shepherds; “This day is born to you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!” (*Gosp* 1st Mass: *Lk* 2, 1—14). The texts in today’s liturgy, following each other in tones of increasing exultation, sing the praises of the sweet Child Jesus, the Word made Man, living and breathing among us: “Whom have you seen, O shepherds? Speak and tell us who has appeared on earth? We saw the new-born Child and choirs of angels loudly praising the Lord” (RB). “Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth exult in the presence of the Lord!” (RM), Our God is here in the midst of us, He has become one of us. “A Child is born to us, a Son is given to us. . . . His name is Admirable, God, Prince of peace, Father of the world to come! . . . Rejoice, O daughter of Sion, sing, O daughter of Jerusalem. . . . Rejoice, ye inhabitants of the earth! Come, ye nations, adore the Lord!” (RB). Come! Come, adore, listen, and rejoice! Jesus, the Word of the Father, speaks to us a wonderful word: God loves you! The three Christmas Masses place before us a majestic picture: the touching description of the birth of Jesus as a man alternates with the sublime one of the eternal birth of the Word in the bosom of the Father; and there are also allusions to Christ’s birth in our souls by grace. However, this three-fold birth is but one single manifestation of God who is Charity. No one on earth could know God’s love; but the Word, who is in the bosom of the Father, knows it and can reveal it to us. The Word was made flesh and has shown to us the love of God.

(*Divine Intimacy* Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen)

From the Pastor

Fr. Curtis, Fr. Savoie, and I would like to wish you all a blessed Christmas and New Year! May we remain united in prayer.

Mass Schedules

Please note the Christmas Mass schedule elsewhere on this page.

- ◆ This Tuesday, the day after Christmas, a solemn Mass will be offered at 6:30 p.m. to honor our parish’s patron, St. Stephen. Medals are awarded at this Mass to the members of the Altar Servers’ Guild who have earned them. A reception will follow in the hall.
- ◆ Next Sunday, Dec. 31, is New Year’s Eve. The schedule of Masses will be normal. New Year’s Day is not a holy day of obligation this year because it falls on a Monday. It’s hoped that everyone will attend regardless. No better way to begin the New Year than by attending Holy Mass. Masses on that day will be at 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m. (sung), and 1:30 p.m.

The Giving Tree

The “Giving Tree” is back, located in the vestibule, near the doors to the hall. Just take an envelope, put your donation to the St. Bernadette Fund inside, and return it to the book store or office. The St. Bernadette Fund was established to help those in need, especially parishioners. 100% of your donation is used for this purpose.

Altar Guild Reception

There will be a reception in the hall following the 6:30 p.m. Mass on Tuesday, December 26 – the Feast of St. Stephen. A pot-luck dinner will be served. To ensure there is sufficient food - as well as sufficient diversity – please contact Judy Kasak if you can bring something. If you have a favorite dish prepare that. If not, please follow the following scheme:

- 1) Families whose last names begin with letters A-G bring a hot entrée dish
- 2) H-L bring a starch such as rolls, rice, tortillas, or potatoes
- 3) M-P bring a salad, veggie dish, or fruit bowl
- 4) Q-S bring drinks
- 5) T-Z bring desserts

Dishes should be dropped off in the kitchen before Mass begins.

Please contact Judy as soon as possible: 916-989-1086 or judikasak@gmail.com

Around the Parish

Pilgrim Virgin Statue - If you would like to have our Blessed Mother’s image spend a week with you in your home, sign up in the book store. First come, first served! You may pickup the statue on one Sunday and return it the next. By taking the image you’re agreeing to pray a family Rosary daily for the duration of the visit.

1st Holy Communion Class Registration

Parishioners with children who will be 7 years of age by June 1, 2018, may register them for 1st Communion classes. Forms are available in the office or bookstore. Classes begin in January. A copy of the child’s baptism certificate must accompany the registration.

**Christmas Mass Schedule
Holy Day of Obligation**

11:00 P.M. Confessions
11:15 P.M. Hymns and Carols
12:00 A.M. Midnight Solemn Mass
8:00 A.M. Low Mass
10:30 A.M. Solemn Mass
1:30 P.M. Low Mass
6:00 P.M. Low Mass

Annual Christmas Party

Our annual Christmas party will be on Saturday, January 6, 2018! Tickets are \$10 or \$25 per family and will be sold after the Sunday Masses. If you would like to volunteer to help or be a part of the talent show entertainment, please contact Yesenia Rangel at (916) 682-9600 or YeseniaLovesLife@gmail.com.

Brown Bag Lunch Project

Please help us fill our food closet:

Below is a list of the food needed.
Must be non-perishable
Tuna, chicken, salmon, other easy-to-open, single portion meats, or lunchables
Apple sauce cups or other fruit cups
Healthy snacks like fruit rolls, breakfast bars, soft granola bars
Crackers or chips
Deserts like cookies
Bottles of water
Plastic utensils, packages of lunch bags, and napkins
Jars of peanut butter, jelly/preserves
Cash donations also welcome at the office or bookstore

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Barbara Graichen, Sue McGrath, Sandy Sneary, Barbara Jeong, John Newaz, Jim Carlson, Darryl Gallagher, Fr. Goodwin, Margaret Northan, Jean Haun, Sandra De Monaco, Pamela Lewis, Helen DiCarlo, Barbara Cogan, Ramon and Robert Daley, Liz Nicolini, Julie Jeong, William (Pat) Cummings, Lorraine Peterson, John Testa, Mike Trainor, Michael Cuellar, Alice Smith, Patricia Quinn, William Eckerman, Mitzi Vandenburg



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Rev. Fr. Joshua Curtis, F.S.S.P., *Parochial Vicar*
Rev. Fr. Dominic Savoie, F.S.S.P., *Parochial Vicar*

www.sacfssp.com

If you wish to receive official notifications from the parish, subscribe to email: ststephenssp-subscribe@yahoo.com

MASS SCHEDULE
TRADITIONAL ROMAN RITE

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. Low Mass
10:30 a.m. High Mass
1:30 p.m. Low Mass
6:00 p.m. Low Mass

Monday: 7:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

Tuesday: 7:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 7:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

Thursday: 7:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Friday: 7:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Saturday: 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

Holy Days: Please call the office or consult the bulletin or website

DEVOTIONS

Rosary:

- Sunday: 7:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and after the 1:30 p.m. Mass
- Following the 12:15 p.m. Mass on weekdays

Holy Face Novena: 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday

St. Monica Novena: First Thursday of every month, following the 6:30 p.m. Mass

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena: after 6:30 p.m. Mass every Tuesday

Fatima Procession: 13th of every month- May to October - following the 6:30 p.m. Mass on weekdays, the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Saturdays, and the 1 p.m. Mass on Sundays

Men's Holy League: 3rd Wednesday of each month. Holy Hour 7pm—8 pm

Knights of Columbus: 3rd Wednesday of each month, 6 pm

CONFESSION

- One half hour before all Masses
- Saturdays 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION
THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

Thursday: 3:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

Friday: After 6:30 p.m. Mass

Saturday: After 7:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. (Holy Hour for Vocations)

First Friday: Benediction after 12:15 p.m. Mass

NEW TO ST. STEPHEN'S?

Registration forms are available in the Parish Office or Bookstore.

ENVELOPES AND ON-LINE GIVING

Envelopes are very helpful for our bookkeeping. PLEASE pick them up in the Parish Office or Bookstore.

For on-line giving go to the parish website:
www.sacfssp.com

SICK CALLS

If anyone is in need of the Sacraments (i.e. homebound) please call the parish office. If it is an **emergency**, outside of office hours, dial (916) 455-5114, then press 1, and the priest-on-call will be paged immediately.

St. Bernadette Fund – to aid parishioners in need!
Donations may be made on-line.